



October 26, 2021

To: Chicago City Council

Re: Support for Approval of FY2022 Proposed Budget for Environmental Justice and Climate Investments

Dear Members of the Chicago City Council:

The Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) is submitting testimony in support of the proposed budget for equitable climate resiliency and mitigation. MPC believes that the proposed \$188,000,000 to be used toward green infrastructure, workforce development, and resilient communities is an important investment that will see its value far exceeded in future social and economic returns not only for the City of Chicago, but for the entire Chicago metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Planning Council has worked to support equitable and resilient communities through initiatives such as Elevated Chicago, We Will Chicago, Great Rivers Chicago, Environmental Equity Working Group, and advocacy for increased pedestrian, bicycle and transit investment.

The proposed investments into Chicago's vacant lands, rivers, tree canopy, trail development, flood mitigation, and housing retrofits will help Chicago's most vulnerable neighborhoods and residents become more resilient, and thus better prepare the entire City and region to succeed in the face of future environmental challenges.

A vote in favor of these proposed budget allocations is essential to advancing the equitable development, recovery, and future health and resilience of communities across Chicago. Please contact the Metropolitan Planning Council with any questions or for further comment on this testimony.

Sincerely,

Christina Harris  
Director, Land Use & Planning  
312-863-6041  
[charris@metroplanning.org](mailto:charris@metroplanning.org)

Chloe Gurin-Sands  
Manager, Health Equity & Planning  
312-863-6037  
[cgurinsands@metroplanning.org](mailto:cgurinsands@metroplanning.org)

**Board of Governors**

Chair  
Melissa Washington •

Vice Chair Development  
Paul C. Carlisle •

Vice Chair Development  
Lee Mitchell •

Vice Chair Development  
James Stirling •

Vice Chair Government  
Relations  
Robert V. Fitzsimmons •

Treasurer  
Bruce W. Taylor •

Immediate Past Chair  
Ellen Carnahan •

Ramiro J. Atristain-Carrion •  
Erica Marquez Avitia  
Kyle Barnett  
Carol Ross Barney  
Ciere Boatright  
Matthew Brewer •  
Carole Brown  
Todd C. Brown  
Christopher B. Burke  
Janet Chess  
Eileen Chin  
Chris Conley  
Lester Crown  
Francesca DeBiase  
Zena Diggs  
Nedra Sims Fears  
Manuel Flores  
James C. Franczek, Jr.  
Linda Goodman  
Jacques N. Gordon •  
M. Hill Hammock  
Andy Hesselbach  
Charles R. Kaiser  
Martha Linsley  
Laritz Lopez  
Bernard Loyd  
Mary K. Ludgin  
James E. Mann  
David Mook  
Daryl Newell  
Sameer Patel  
J. Scot Pepper  
Julian G. Posada •  
George A. Ranney, Jr.  
Matthew R. Reilein •  
Robert G. Reiter, Jr.  
Alana Ward Robinson  
Emma Rodriguez-Ayala  
Unmi Song  
Michael A. Thomas  
Mary White Vasys  
David Williams ••  
Paula Wolff •  
Jessica Droste Yagan •

President  
MarySue Barrett •

Executive Committee •  
General Counsel ••

**Executive Advisors**

Wilfried Aulbur  
Roland Berger

Carol L. Bernick  
Polished Nickel Capital  
Management LLC

Jonathan C. Bunge  
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart &  
Sullivan, LLP

John Bucksbaum  
Bucksbaum Retail  
Properties, LLC

David Casper  
BMO Financial Group

Robert M. Chapman  
CenterPoint Properties

Keating Crown  
Sterling Bay

Marsha Cruzan  
U.S. Bank

J. Michael Drew  
Structured Development, LLC

Craig J. Duchossois  
The Duchossois Group, Inc

John Ettelson  
William Blair & Company

Robert Frentzel  
CIBC U.S.

John S. Gates, Jr.  
Tradelane Properties, LLC

Nancy S. Gerrie  
Winston & Strawn LLP

Ari F. Glass  
Mansueto Office Inc.

Michael L. Keiser  
Bandon Dunes Golf Resort

Steven N. Miller  
Origin Ventures

Charles J. Moore  
The Banc Funds

J. Marshall Peck  
InterPark Holdings LLC

Joan Rockey  
Cerity Partners LLC

Katherine M. Scherer  
Deloitte LLP

Michael Scudder  
First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.

Kristofer Swanson  
Charles River Associates

Scott Swanson  
PNC Bank, Illinois

Stephan B. Tanda  
AptarGroup, Inc.

Edward J. Wehmer  
Wintrust Financial Corp.

Theodore Weldon  
Lendlease